

バラララ

THE PLANE
NARROWLY
AVOIDED CRASHING
INTO A TEMPLE
CROWDED WITH
FESTIVAL-GOERS.

AN
INVEST-
IGATION
INTO THE
INCIDENT IS
CURRENTLY
UNDERWAY.

ONE NIGHT
HAS PASSED
SINCE A
FLIGHT FROM
RBA AIRLINES
WAS FORCED
TO CRASH-
LAND HERE.

からくり〜白金・白銀
第1幕開幕ベル

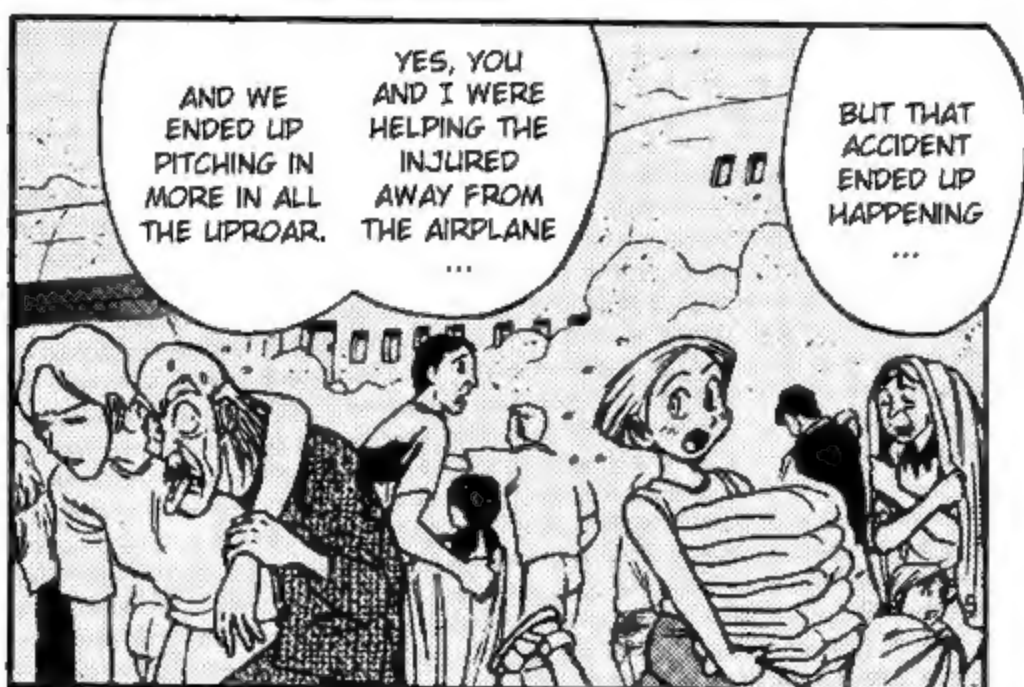
THE AFORE-
MENTIONED
FESTIVAL HAS
BEEN CALLED
OFF BY THE
TOWNSPEOPLE.

FORTUNATELY
THERE WERE NO
INJURIES TO THOSE
ON THE GROUND,
BUT THE SITUATION
CERTAINLY WAS
A CLOSE SHAVE.

WHAT A
STROKE
OF BAD
LUCK FOR
NAKAMACHI.

TCH! AND
AFTER I
WENT TO
SO MUCH
TROUBLE
GETTING
THE TENT
SET UP.

THE CIRCUS
FOLK MUST
BE REALLY
DISAPPOINTED,
GRANDPA.





Karakuri~

Bai-Jin and Bai-Yin

Act 1

Opening Bell

FRANCINE.

MY NAME IS FRANCINE.

AND WHAT ARE
YOU TWO CALLED?



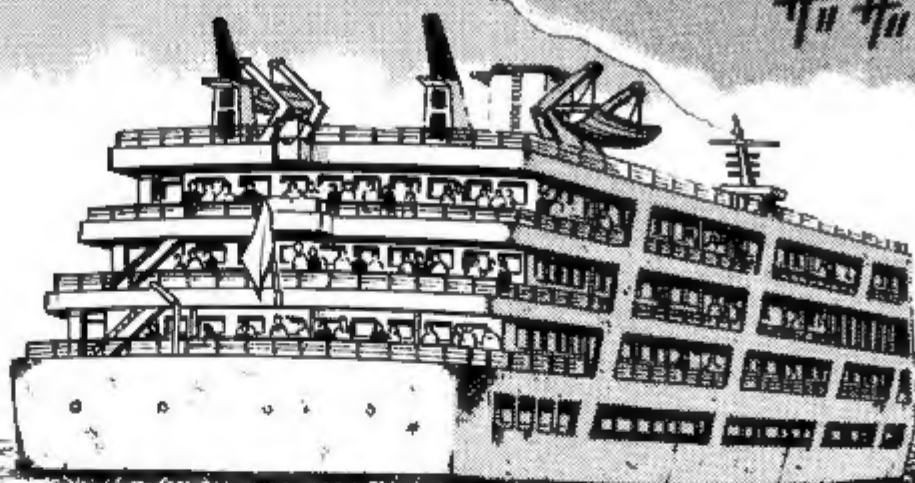
YOU TWO?



WATCHING...
THE CLOWNS...
AND PERFORMERS?



IT
MAY BE
BECAUSE
WE'VE
ARRIVED
IN CHINA.



6

China — The Yangtze River



OUR ONLY
CLUE IS THIS
PHOTOGRAPH.

YEAH,
RIGHT...
THAT'S IT...
I'M BACK IN
CHINA...

WE'RE CHASING
DOWN THE
AUTOMATA'S BASE
OF OPERATIONS,
THE MIDNIGHT
CIRCUS...

YEAH. I STAYED
HERE IN CHINA ONCE,
BECAUSE OF MY
PARENTS' JOBS,
NEAR THAT GORGE
BY THE YANGTZE
RIVER...

THIS VIEW
IS ONE THAT
YOU KNOW...

IT...
REALLY
IS...

WAHH!

AND AS ONE
MIGHT EXPECT,
YOUR HAIR IS
STARTING TO
COME IN SILVER.

OF THOSE
PUPPETS
HERE. THAT'S
WHAT OUR
GOAL IS.

ANYWAY,
WE'RE
HOPING
TO GET
AHEAD...

WELL
DONE,
NARUMI.



MM... I'M
READY TO
FACE WHAT-
EVER THAT
INVOLVES.

BUT THERE'S
STILL A LOT
ABOUT THE
WHOLE THING
I DON'T GET
...



BUT YOU'RE
CERTAINLY
TAKING
YOUR TIME
IN BECOMING
SHIROGANE-
LIKE.

HMPH.
THE AQUA
VITAE MAY
HAVE SAVED
YOUR LIFE...



CAN YOU
IMAGINE YOURSELF
BEING DISSOLVED
INTO THAT DRINK
OF YOURS?



WILL HAVE ALL
OF YOUR "SELF"
CONTAINED
INSIDE THEIR
BODY.

AND THOSE
WHO DRINK
THAT LIQUID
...

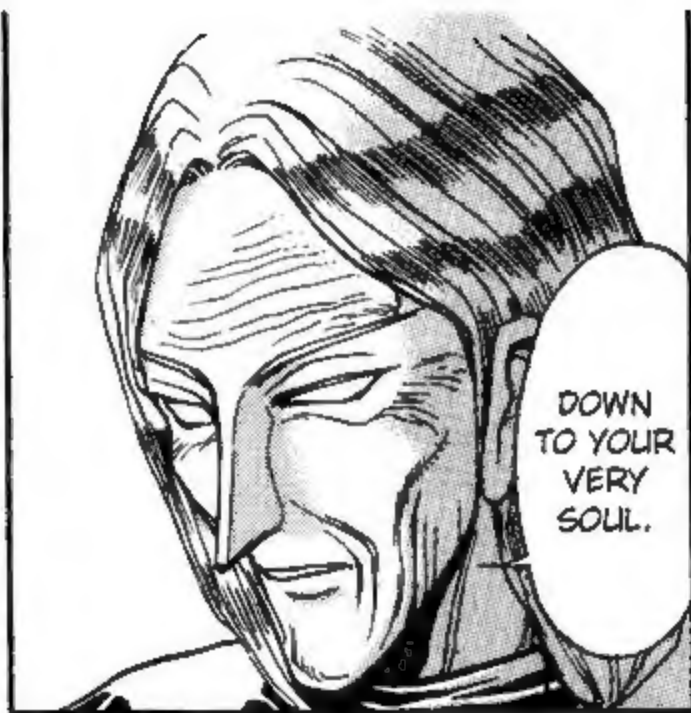


EVERYTHING
YOU'VE LEARNED
IN YOUR LIFE
UP UNTIL NOW,
ALL OF THE
MEMORIES
YOU'VE EVER
EXPERIENCED...
ALL DISSOLVED
INTO THAT
LIQUID...

YOUR
KNOWLEDGE
OF CHINESE
MARTIAL
ARTS...



THE
AQUA
VITAE
...



DOWN
TO YOUR
VERY
SOUL.



MANY ALCHEMISTS
HAVE SOUGHT IT,
BUT THEY WERE
NEVER ABLE TO
CREATE THIS
SUPREME ELIXIR.

A CHEMICAL
SOLUTION
THAT CAN
DISSOLVE
ANYTHING.

AN ELIXIR
OUT OF
A DREAM
THAT CAN
CURE ANY
ILLNESS...

9



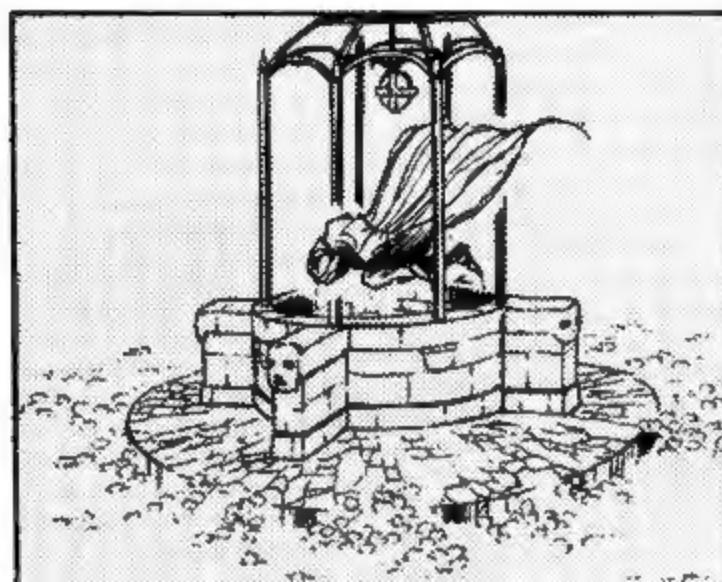
THAT MAN
IDENTIFIED
HIMSELF AS
"白銀"...
WHITE SILVER.
SHIROGANE.



YOU MEAN THE
TRAVELING
ALCHEMIST WHO
SAVED YOUR
VILLAGE FROM
THE ZONAPHA
SYNDROME THOSE
AUTOMATA
SPREAD.



BUT ONE
MAN WAS
ABLE TO
COMPLETE IT.





IS
THE LAST
DOLLOP OF
THE AQUA
VITAE.

IN YOUR
BODY,
NARUMI...

HE THEN
DISSOLVED
HIMSELF
INTO THE
AQUA VITAE,
AND ENTERED
INTO OUR
BODIES.



MAY
HAVE
POOLED
AT THE
BOTTOM
OF THE
WELL.

THAT THE
DENSEST
PART OF
THAT
ALCHEMIST
...



GRADUALLY,
THE WELL OF
AQUA VITAE
DRIED UP.

MANY
SHIROGANE
HAVE DIED
IN BATTLE
...

AND WE HAVE
GIVEN THE AQUA
VITAE TO MORE
ZONAPHA SYN-
DROME PATIENTS
TO MAKE THEM
INTO SHIROGANE.



AND IN A CAVITY AT
THE BOTTOM
OF THE WELL THERE
WAS ONE SPOONFUL
LEFT. GUY USED
IT ON YOU.



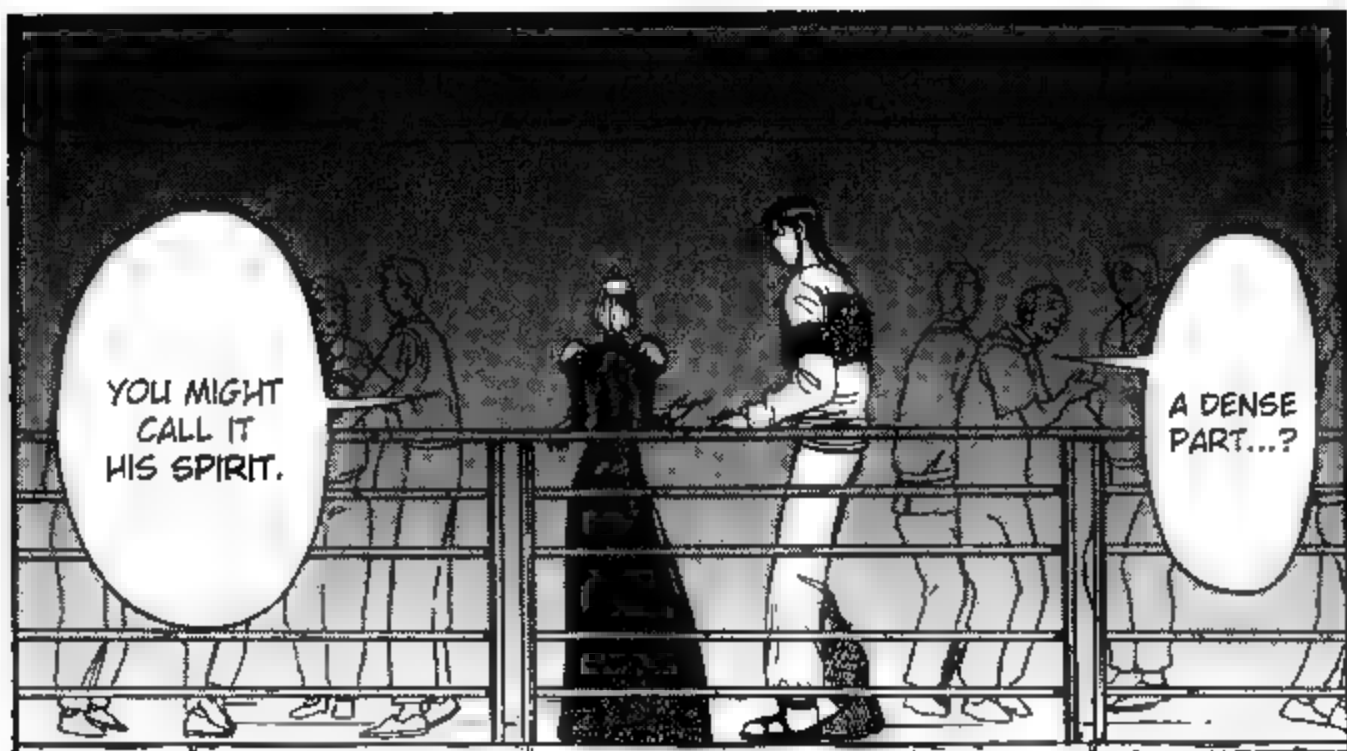
WHEN
I THINK
ABOUT THE
MATTER,
IT SEEMS
POSSIBLE
...

TO ME,
YOU SEEM TO BE
QUITE DIFFERENT
FROM THE OTHER
SHIROGANE.



YES.

SO YOU'RE
SAYING I'M
THE LAST
SHIROGANE
...?



YOU MIGHT
CALL IT
HIS SPIRIT.

A DENSE
PART...?



THAT MAN
SAID THAT
HE WAS
BORN IN
CHINA.



THEN...
THE WEIRD
DREAMS I'VE
BEEN HAVING
SINCE WE GOT
TO CHINA, ABOUT
THAT WOMAN I
DON'T KNOW...



PER-
HAPS.

YOU
REALLY
THINK
SO?
SOUNDS
KINDA
FAR-
FETCHED
...



MEMORIES OF
HIS MAY BE
AWAKENING
FROM WHERE
THEY SLEPT
DEEP INSIDE
YOU.

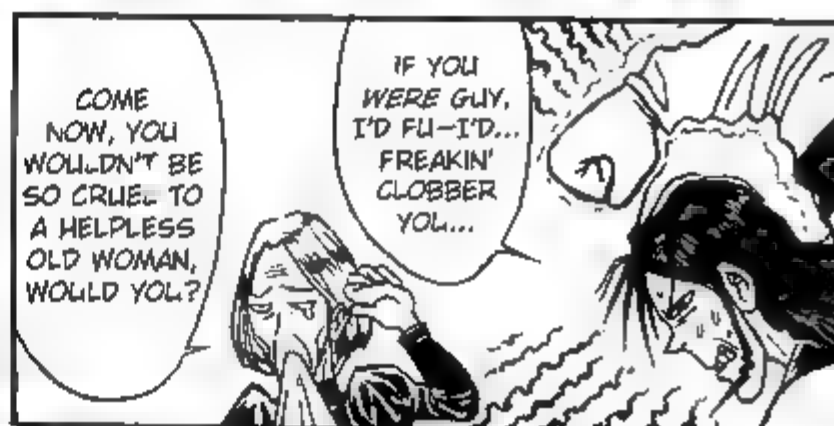
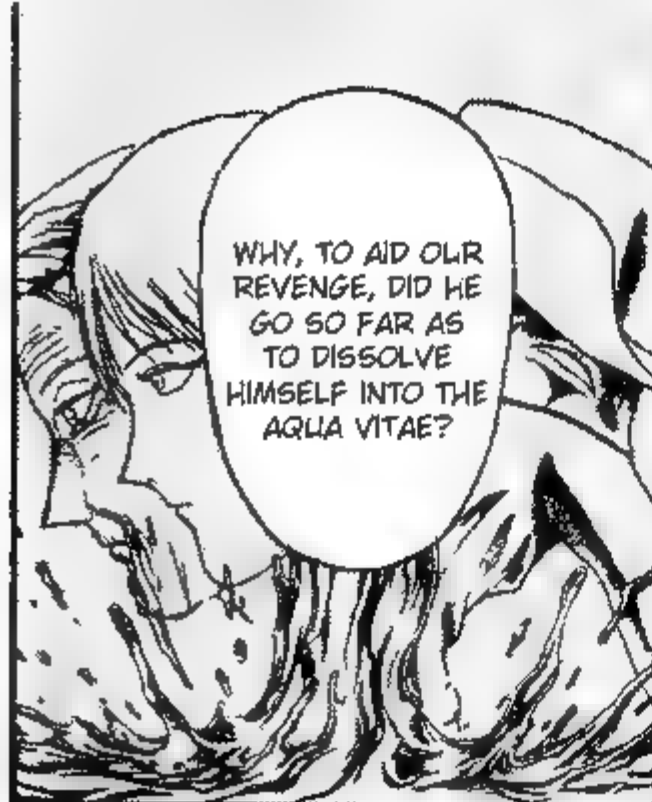
NOW THAT
YOU HAVE
SET FOOT
IN CHINA...



TRUTHS
...?

WE STILL
KNOW NOTHING
OF THE TRUTHS
BEHIND THAT
MAN.





12





13





"ONE BLOW"
...

MENTIONING
"THE AUTUMN
INCIDENT IN
BEIJING"
WILL SETTLE
THINGS IN
ONE BLOW.



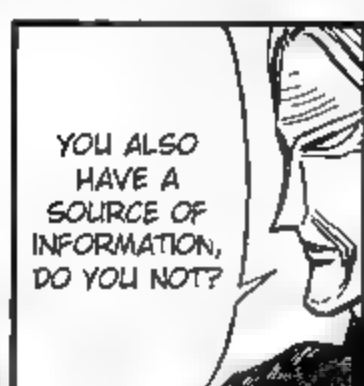
WELL,
IT'S A
LONG
STORY,
BUT...

TH-THEY
KNOW
ABOUT THE
SHIROGANE
EVEN IN THIS
COUNTRY?



I'LL
DEFINITELY
FIND OUT
SOMETHING
FROM HIM.

YEAH. I KNOW
SOMEBODY
BEYOND EVEN
THE SHIROGANE
INFORMATION
NETWORK.



YOU ALSO
HAVE A
SOURCE OF
INFORMATION,
DO YOU NOT?



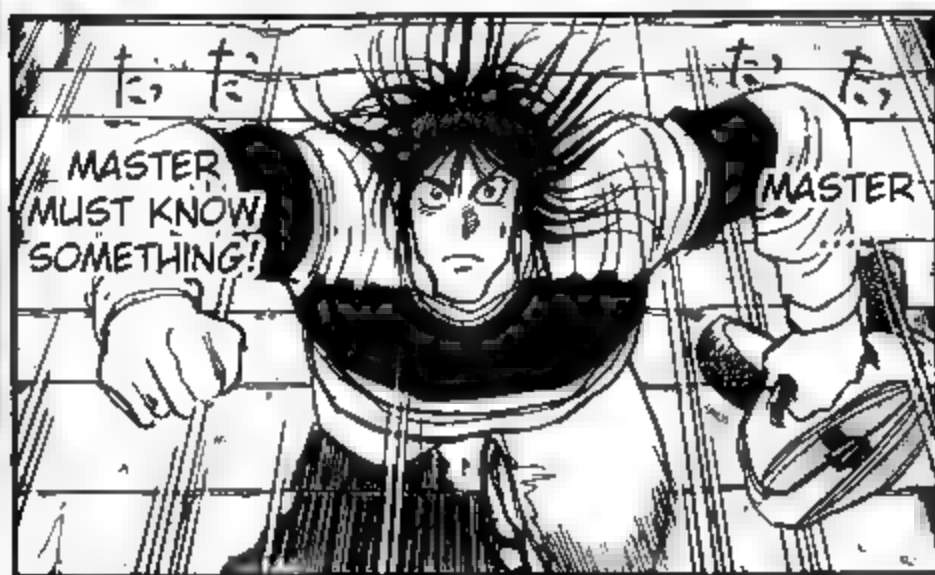
AND
I'LL FULFILL
...
THE
PROMISE
I MADE
TO TOM.



DON'T
LET ME
DOWN,
NARUMI.

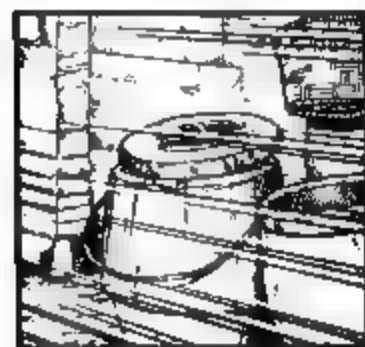
HOHO
...

SINCE
WE GOT
OFF THE
BOAT,
YOUR
FACE HAS
BEEN
GLITTERING
WITH
PURPOSE.



*HUIQIAO: CHINESE PEOPLE LIVING OVERSEAS

15







17





WHA
...

YOU
INFECTED
MY DAD
WITH YOUR
DISEASE!!

18



ZO-
NAPHA
SYN-
DROME!

THAT'S
RIGHT!
HE HAS
YOUR
DISEASE!



HE...
HE'S
SICK?!

WHAT
DID
YOU
SAY,
MING-
XIA?!

pg. 9: The potion of immortality that alchemists hoped to create was actually referred to as the elixir of life, not as *aqua vitae*, which was a concentrated aqueous solution of ethanol, and currently is used to refer to a number of different kinds of alcohol. It does sound cool, though.

pg. 9: *Shirogane* has been written in hiragana (しろがね) up until this point. When referring to the group of people, it is usually (but not always) written as 「しろがね」 to distinguish it from Éléonore's nickname and mark it as an important 「concept」. I've been using boldface as an equivalent. The title of this arc, **Báijīn and Báiyín**, is written 白金・白銀. Báijīn is written as "white" + "gold" and Báiyín as "white" + "silver", but both are read "Shirogane" (platinum) in Japanese. (Don't ask me how Lucille knew which one the alchemist was saying.)

pg. 15: Narumi and the other students call Master Liáng "sensei" in the original. The characters used are the Chinese word 師父 (*shīfu*), but the furigana reads *sensei*. Similarly, Wáng is "Wáng-anikī" and Sūn is "Sūn-san", with the characters used being the Chinese word 哥哥 (*gēgē*, elder brother) and 兄 (*xiōng*, elder brother), but with furigana reading あにき and さん. They are meant to be speaking Chinese, with the honorifics "subtitled" for Karakuri Circus's Japanese audience, but naturally by the time it gets to us things start to get confusing, since English doesn't have an unobtrusive way to write things in two different languages at once. Fortunately, because they're martial arts teacher and students, "master" and "brother" are for once perfectly natural replacements. The only thing to note is that *gēgē* and *xiōng* specifically identify Wáng and Sūn as senior students to Narumi.

pg. 15: *Huáqiáo* is sometimes used specifically to refer to Chinese nationals who have moved abroad, and sometimes to refer to anyone of Chinese descent who lives overseas. It's unclear how general its meaning is here.

Wild Words does not support the characters needed to write pinyin with tone marks, so characters' names will be written without them. Here they are for the record:

Liang Jian-Jia (Master Liang): 梁劍岬 — Liáng Jiànjiǎ

Liang Ming-Xia: 梁明霞 — Liáng Míngxiá

Ming-Hai (Narumi): 鳴海 — Míngǎi

Wang Zhang-Jian (Brother Wang): 王張健 — Wáng Zhāngjiàn

Bai-Jin: 白金 — Báijīn

Bai-Yin: 白銀 — Báiyín

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.